

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as set forth in the following listing. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims for the present application.

1.-23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently Amended) The A method of ~~claim 23~~ introducing a fluid into a bone,
comprising:

preparing an opening in a bone using a bone tap, the bone tap comprising a body, a
passage extending along at least a portion of the body, one or more openings located at a
distal end of the body and communicating with the passage, and threading located near the
distal end of the body of the bone tap;

introducing a fluid to the bone through the passage and at least one of the openings of
the bone tap, wherein the fluid comprises bone cement;

allowing the fluid to spread to a portion of the bone, wherein the bone cement is allowed
to harden at least partially before the bone tap is removed from the opening in the bone formed
by the bone tap[[,]];:

removing the bone tap from the opening in the bone; and

introducing a bone fastener into the opening in the bone formed by the bone tap,

wherein the portion of the bone filled with the bone cement maintains a shape complementary
to the distal end of the body of the bone tap following the removal of the bone tap and prior to
the introduction of the bone fastener.

25. (Currently Amended) The A method of ~~claim 23~~ introducing a fluid into a bone,
comprising:

preparing an opening in a bone using a bone tap, the bone tap comprising a body, a
passage extending along at least a portion of the body, one or more openings located at a
distal end of the body and communicating with the passage, and threading located near the
distal end of the body of the bone tap;

introducing a fluid to the bone through the passage and at least one of the openings of
the bone tap, wherein the fluid comprises a bone filler and a medicament;

allowing the fluid to spread to a portion of the bone;

removing the bone tap from the opening in the bone; and

introducing a bone fastener into the opening in the bone formed by the bone tap.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~23~~24, wherein preparing the opening in the bone using the bone tap further comprises attaching a driver to the bone tap, placing the bone tap at an initial opening formed in the bone, and rotating the driver to thread the bone tap into the bone.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~23~~24, wherein introducing the fluid to the bone comprises coupling a fluid delivery system to the bone tap, and activating the fluid delivery system to move fluid through the bone tap and into the bone.

28.-30. (Cancelled).

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~23~~24, wherein the step of introducing a fluid to the bone comprises the steps of:

(1) introducing the fluid ~~to a first location~~ in the opening in the bone formed by the bone tap;

(2) ~~moving~~ partially withdrawing the bone tap from the opening in the bone formed by the bone tap; and

(3) ~~introducing the fluid to a second location~~ additional bone cement one or more times in the opening in the bone formed by the bone tap.

32.-33. (Cancelled).

34. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method of claim 33~~ introducing a fluid into a bone, comprising:

preparing an opening in a bone using a bone tap, the bone tap comprising a body, a passage extending along at least a portion of the body, one or more openings communicating with the passage, and threading located near an end of the body of the bone tap;

introducing a fluid to the bone through the passage and at least one of the openings of the bone tap, wherein the fluid comprises bone cement;

allowing the fluid to spread to a portion of the bone;

coupling a removable driver to the bone tap, and using the driver to remove the bone tap from the opening in the bone, wherein the bone tap is removed from the opening after the bone cement begins to cure; and

introducing a bone fastener into the opening in the bone formed by the bone tap.

35. (Currently Amended) The A method of ~~claim 33~~ introducing a fluid into a bone, comprising:

preparing an opening in a bone using a bone tap, the bone tap comprising a body, a passage extending along at least a portion of the body, one or more openings communicating with the passage, and threading located near an end of the body of the bone tap;

introducing a fluid to the bone through the passage and at least one of the openings of the bone tap, wherein the fluid comprises a bone filler and a medicament;

allowing the fluid to spread to a portion of the bone;

coupling a removable driver to the bone tap, and using the driver to remove the bone tap from the bone; and

introducing a bone fastener into the opening in the bone formed by the bone tap.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~33~~34, wherein preparing the opening in the bone using the bone tap further comprises attaching a driver to the bone tap, placing the bone tap at an initial opening formed in the bone, and rotating the driver to thread the bone tap into the bone.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~33~~34, wherein introducing a fluid to the bone comprises coupling a fluid delivery system to the bone tap, and activating the fluid delivery system to move fluid through the bone tap and into the bone.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~33~~34, wherein the step of introducing a fluid to the bone comprises:

(1) ~~introducing the fluid to a first location in the opening in the bone formed by the bone tap;~~

(2) ~~moving~~ partially withdrawing the bone tap from the opening in the bone formed by the bone tap; and

(3) ~~introducing the fluid to a second location~~ additional bone cement one or more times in the opening in the bone formed by the bone tap.

39. (Cancelled).

40. (Currently Amended) A method of introducing a fluid into a bone, said method comprising the steps of:

preparing an opening in a bone using a bone tap, the bone tap comprising:

a body;

a passage through at least a portion of the body;

threading located near a distal end of the body; and

one or more openings through the threading in communication with the passage, the one or more openings configured to introduce bone filler into the bone;

~~advancing the bone tap to a first location in the opening in the bone formed by the bone tap;~~

introducing a fluid to ~~the first bone location in the opening in the bone formed by the bone tap~~ through the passage and the one or more openings in the bone tap, wherein the fluid comprises a bone filler and a medicament;

~~moving partially withdrawing the bone tap to a second location in from the opening in the bone formed by the bone tap;~~

introducing the fluid to ~~the second bone location~~ again one or more times in the opening in the bone formed by the bone tap; and

withdrawing the bone tap from the bone.

41. (Cancelled).

42. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method of claim 40 introducing a fluid into a bone, comprising:

preparing an opening in a bone using a bone tap, the bone tap comprising:

a body;

a passage through at least a portion of the body;

threading located near a distal end of the body; and

one or more openings through the threading in communication with the passage, the one or more openings configured to introduce bone filler into the bone;

introducing a fluid to the bone through the passage and the one or more openings in the bone tap, wherein the fluid comprises bone cement;

partially withdrawing the bone tap from the opening in the bone formed by the bone tap;
introducing additional bone cement one or more times in the opening in the bone formed
by the bone tap; and

withdrawing the bone tap from the bone, wherein the bone tap is removed from the opening after the bone cement begins to cure.

43. (Cancelled).

44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein ~~advancing the bone tap to the first location in~~ preparing the opening in the bone comprises attaching a driver to the bone tap, placing the bone tap at an initial opening formed in the bone, and rotating the driver to thread the bone tap into the bone.

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein introducing the fluid to the ~~first bone location~~ further comprises coupling a fluid delivery system to the bone tap, and activating the fluid delivery system to move the fluid through the bone tap and into the bone.

46.-53. (Cancelled).

54. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein preparing the opening in the bone using the bone tap further comprises attaching a driver to the bone tap, placing the bone tap at an initial opening formed in the bone, and rotating the driver to thread the bone tap into the bone.

55. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein introducing the fluid to the bone comprises coupling a fluid delivery system to the bone tap, and activating the fluid delivery system to move fluid through the bone tap and into the bone.

56. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of introducing a fluid to the bone comprises the steps of:

- (1) introducing the fluid in the opening in the bone formed by the bone tap;
- (2) partially withdrawing the bone tap from the opening in the bone formed by the bone tap; and
- (3) introducing the fluid again one or more times in the opening in the bone formed by the bone tap.